

Senate File 285 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 285

BY SEGEBART

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the establishment of a psychiatric
2 practitioner loan repayment program and fund.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 135.191 **Psychiatric practitioner**
2 **loan repayment program and fund.**

3 1. For the purposes of this section:

4 *a. "Psychiatric practitioner"* means a psychiatrist, advanced
5 registered nurse practitioner, or a physician assistant.

6 *b. "Qualified provider"* means a community mental health
7 center designated in accordance with chapter 230A, a provider
8 designated to serve as the community mental health center by
9 the county in which the provider is located, or a health care
10 provider that is a nonprofit organization which is exempt
11 from federal income taxation pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of
12 the Internal Revenue Code serving patients of whom at least
13 sixty-five percent are Medicaid program recipients that is
14 located in an area that is not a federally designated health
15 professional shortage area.

16 2. The department shall establish a psychiatric
17 practitioner loan repayment program to provide loan repayment
18 to psychiatric practitioners who comply with the requirements
19 of the program and are employed by qualified providers.

20 3. An applicant for loan repayment under this section shall,
21 in accordance with the rules of the department, do all of the
22 following:

23 *a.* Complete and file an application, including any
24 information required by the department. The applicant shall
25 be responsible for the prompt submission of any information
26 required by the department.

27 *b.* Complete and return, on a form approved by the
28 department, an affidavit of practice verifying that the
29 applicant is a psychiatric practitioner employed by a qualified
30 provider.

31 4. A program agreement shall provide that in order to
32 receive loan repayment under this section, the individual shall
33 agree to engage in practice as a psychiatric practitioner with
34 a qualified provider for a period of at least four consecutive
35 years.

1 5. *a.* A psychiatric practitioner who meets the requirements
2 of this section is eligible for loan repayments for not more
3 than four consecutive years.

4 *b.* The annual amount of loan repayment awarded to a
5 psychiatric practitioner under this section shall be based on
6 the amount of the psychiatric practitioner's outstanding loans
7 and shall not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars for each
8 completed full-time work year which commences upon employment
9 with a qualified provider. For psychiatric practitioners who
10 work less than full-time, the loan repayment shall not exceed
11 an amount that is prorated according to the number of hours
12 worked.

13 *c.* A psychiatric practitioner receiving loan repayment
14 under this section shall file an application annually and shall
15 submit information as required by the department on the basis
16 of which the applicant's continued eligibility for the loan
17 repayment program will be evaluated and determined.

18 6. A psychiatric practitioner loan repayment fund is
19 created as a separate fund in the state treasury under the
20 control of the department for deposit of moneys appropriated
21 to or received by the department for use under the program.
22 Moneys credited to the fund are appropriated to the department
23 for purposes of the psychiatric practitioner loan repayment
24 program. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys deposited in
25 the fund shall not revert to any fund of the state at the end
26 of any fiscal year but shall remain in the loan repayment fund
27 and be continuously available for loan repayment under the
28 program. Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest
29 or earnings on moneys deposited in the fund shall be credited
30 to the fund.

31 7. The department shall submit in a report to the general
32 assembly by January 1, annually, the number of psychiatric
33 practitioners who received loan repayments pursuant to this
34 section, the amount paid to each psychiatric practitioner under
35 this section, the amount of moneys remaining in the fund, and

1 any other information the department deems appropriate.

2 8. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A
3 to administer this section.

4 EXPLANATION

5 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
6 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

7 This bill directs the department of public health (DPH) to
8 establish a psychiatric practitioner loan repayment program to
9 be administered by the department to provide repayment of loans
10 to psychiatric practitioners who comply with the requirements
11 of the program and are employed by a qualified provider.

12 The bill defines "psychiatric practitioner" as a
13 psychiatrist, advanced registered nurse practitioner, or a
14 physician assistant; and "qualified provider" as a community
15 mental health center, a provider designated to serve as the
16 community mental health center by the county in which the
17 provider is located, or a 501(c)(3) nonprofit mental health
18 provider that serves patients, of whom at least 65 percent are
19 Medicaid program recipients that is located in an area that is
20 not a federally designated health professional shortage area.

21 The bill requires an applicant to complete and file an
22 application, including any information required by the
23 department, and complete and return on a form approved by
24 the department, an affidavit of practice verifying that the
25 applicant is a psychiatric practitioner employed by a qualified
26 provider.

27 The program agreement is to provide that in order to
28 receive loan repayment, the individual shall agree to engage
29 in practice as a psychiatric practitioner with a qualified
30 provider for a period of at least four consecutive years.

31 A psychiatric practitioner is eligible for loan repayments
32 for not more than four consecutive years. The annual amount
33 of the loan repayment awarded shall be based on the amount of
34 the psychiatric practitioner's outstanding loans and shall not
35 exceed \$25,000 for each completed full-time work year which

1 commences upon employment with a qualified provider. For
2 psychiatric practitioners who work less than full-time, the
3 loan repayment shall not exceed an amount that is prorated
4 according to the number of hours worked.

5 A psychiatric practitioner receiving loan repayment shall
6 file an application annually and shall submit information
7 as required by the department on the basis of which the
8 applicant's continued eligibility for the loan repayment
9 program will be evaluated and determined.

10 The bill establishes a psychiatric practitioner loan
11 repayment fund as a separate fund in the state treasury under
12 the control of the department of public health for deposit
13 of moneys appropriated to or received by the department
14 for use under the program. Moneys credited to the fund are
15 appropriated to the department for purposes of the program.
16 The moneys in the fund do not revert to any fund at the end of
17 any fiscal year but remain in the loan repayment fund and are
18 continuously available for loan repayment under the program.
19 Interest or earnings on moneys deposited in the fund shall be
20 credited to the fund.

21 The bill requires the department to submit in a report to
22 the general assembly by January 1, annually, the number of
23 psychiatric practitioners who received loan repayments, the
24 amount paid to each psychiatric practitioner, the amount of
25 moneys remaining in the fund, and any other information the
26 department deems appropriate.

27 The department is required to adopt rules to administer the
28 bill.